Development of B.R. Hills in Karnataka

2144. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the project for developing Biligiriranga Hills (B.R. Hills) in Chamarajanagar District in Karnataka as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details of the tourist promotion work taken up; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent during 2002-2003 on it?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned a project for construction of Yatri Niwas at Biligiri, Rangana Betta in Chamarajanagar District in Karnataka during the year 2000-01 for Central financial assistance of Rs. 56.00 lakhs.

(b) The project has been taken for construction of Fast Food Counter and Yatri Niwas.

(c) The State Government of Karantaka has released an amount of Rs. 16.80 lakhs to M/s. Karnataka Land Army Corporation to start the construction of Yatri Niwas at B.R. Hills during 2002-2003.

Development of tourist circuits

†2145. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Plan has been formulated to develop some new tourism circuits during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names of these circuits;

(c) whether some tourist places and sanctuaries of Uttaranchal have also been included in these circuits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative steps being taken by his Ministry for development of tourist places of the State?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has introduced a scheme of development of tourist circuits on an annual basis during the 10th Five Year Plan in order to develop infrastructure facilities at tourist destinations. During the year 2002-03, the Department of Tourism has identified the following circuits in consultation with the State Governments:

(i) EASTERN REGION - (Buddist Circuit)
Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi

(ii) NORTHERN REGION - (Himalaya Circuit)

Route I - Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh.
Route II - Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) CENTRAL CIRCUIT - (Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit)
Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Panchamarhi-Kanha-Jabalpur (Bhedaghāt)

(iv) WESTERN CIRCUIT - (Konkan Riviera circuit)
Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva) - Muradjahjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.

(v) SOUTHERN CIRCUIT - (Backwater and Beach circuit)
Cochin-Kumarakom (Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam)

(vi) NORTH-EAST CIRCUIT - (Eco-Tourism Circuit)
Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) - Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Areas of Rishikesh-Badrinath-Kedarnath and Gangotri in the State of Uttaranchal has been identified as a hub of culutre, tourism and civil governance for development of infrastructure facilities.